



Twinkle: a low-Earth orbit, visible and infrared observatory for exoplanet and solar system spectroscopy

Billy Edwards^{1,2}, Marcell Tessenyi^{1,2}, Giovanna Tinetti^{1,2}, Giorgio Savini^{1,2}, Ian Stotesbury¹, Richard Archer¹, Ben Wilcock¹, Max Joshua¹, Philip Windred¹, and Jonathan Tennyson^{2,1}

¹Blue Skies Space Ltd., 69 Wilson Street, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (billy@bssl.space)

²University College London, Physics and Astronomy, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
(billy.edwards.16@ucl.ac.uk)

The Twinkle Space Mission is a space-based observatory that has been conceived to measure the atmospheric composition of exoplanets, stars and solar system objects. The satellite is based on a high-heritage platform and will carry a 0.45 m telescope with a visible and infrared spectrograph providing simultaneous wavelength coverage from 0.5 - 4.5 μm . The spacecraft will be launched into a Sun-synchronous low-Earth polar orbit and will operate in this highly stable thermal environment for a baseline lifetime of seven years.

Twinkle will have the capability to provide high-quality infrared spectroscopic characterisation of the atmospheres of hundreds of bright exoplanets, covering a wide range of planetary types. It will also be capable of providing phase curves for hot, short-period planets around bright stars targets and of providing ultra-precise photometric light curves to accurately constrain orbital parameters, including ephemerides and TTVs/TDVs present in multi-planet systems.

Twinkle is available for researchers around the globe in two ways:

- 1) joining its collaborative multi-year survey programme, which will observe hundreds of exoplanets and solar system objects; and
- 2) accessing dedicated telescope time on the spacecraft, which they can schedule for any combination of science cases.

I will present an overview of Twinkle's capabilities and discuss some example exoplanet surveys to highlight the broad range of targets the mission could observe, demonstrating the huge scientific potential of the spacecraft.